

SPECIAL EDUCATION – BLIND OR VISUALLY IMPAIRED

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- 1. What does the application fee cover?** For the CE or CEAS, the fee is \$150.00 (this includes the cost of the CE/CEAS, two-year provisional certificate and standard certificate at the successful completion of the provisional teacher program.). If you already hold a standard instructional certificate and are applying for the standard special education certificate, the fee is \$75.00.
- 2. Once I receive my CE or CEAS, what do I need to do?** The CE or CEAS allow you to seek and gain employment. When you are offered employment, your district will enroll you in the provisional teacher program so that you can complete the requirements for standard certification.
- 3. If I don't already have a teaching certificate in a subject field (English, mathematics, science, etc.) or grade level (elementary school, preschool through grade 3) and I want to teach special education, what should I do?** A prerequisite for the special education endorsements is a subject area or grade level certificate. If you do not have a CE, CEAS or standard subject area or grade level certificate, you will need to apply for both the special education and the subject area/grade level endorsements.
- 3. I have no instructional certificate. I want to teach classified students mathematics at the high school level of study. What certificates do I need for this assignment?** You need to hold the Teacher of Mathematics and the Teacher of Students with Disabilities certificates.
- 4. I hold a Teacher of the Handicapped certificate. What do I need to do to teach classified students mathematics at the high school level?** You do not need to hold the mathematics certificate. You do need to prove to the district that you are highly qualified to teach mathematics at the high school level. You can do this by passing the Mathematics: Content Knowledge Praxis II test, completing a 30 credit coherent sequence of study in mathematics or prove through the HOUSSSE matrix that you are highly qualified. For more information about the highly qualified teacher requirements, you can access the following website: <http://www.nj.gov/njded/title1/hqs/>
- 5. I hold no instructional certificate and want to teach classified students social studies at the eighth grade level. For which certificates do I need to apply?** You need to apply for the Elementary School Teacher in grades kindergarten through five, the Elementary School with Subject Matter Specialization: Social Studies and the Teacher of Students with Disabilities certificates or the Teacher of Social Studies and the Teacher of Students with Disabilities certificates.
- 6. What colleges or universities in New Jersey have approved special education teacher preparation programs?** The full list of approved New Jersey special education programs can be found at the following website: <http://www.nj.gov/njded/aps/heqi/licensure.htm>
- 7. If I hold a standard Elementary School Teacher certificate and I want to become certified to teach special education students, what do I need to do?** You need to complete a state approved college special education program (21 – 27 credits that includes the required special education pedagogy). Submit an application, \$75 fee and official transcript showing completion of the special education program.

8. If I hold a standard Elementary School Teacher certificate and I am offered a position to teach classified students at the kindergarten through grade five level, what do I need to do? If you have completed six semester hour credits in special education pedagogy, you can apply for the special education CE. You need to submit an application, \$150 fee and official transcripts showing completion of the six semester hours of study. A CE will be issued. The district can enroll you in the Provisional Teacher Program. You will teach under provisional certification while you complete the required special education pedagogy and a year of mentored teaching.

1. WHAT TYPES OF CERTIFICATES CAN I APPLY FOR?

- **Certificate of Eligibility (CE)** – (This is the certificate issued to eligible candidates who have NOT completed a state approved college teacher preparation program that culminates in student teaching.)
- **Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing (CEAS)** – (This is the certificate issued to eligible candidates who have completed a state approved college teacher preparation program that culminates in student teaching.)
- **Standard certificate** – (This is the certificate issued to eligible candidates who have completed a state approved college teacher preparation program that culminates in student teaching and have completed a minimum of one year of successful full-time teaching under a currently valid out-of-state certificate. Note that certificates issued by cities do not fulfill this requirement.)

2. REQUIREMENT – A prerequisite for a special education endorsement is an instructional CE, CEAS or standard certificate.

Military science, preschool through grade 3, and experienced-based vocational endorsements do not fulfill the pre-requisite requirement. Examples of acceptable instructional endorsements are elementary school, English, mathematics, social studies, science and world languages. If you do not hold CE, CEAS or standard instructional endorsement, you must also apply for and receive first a specific instructional certificate when you apply for the special education endorsement.

3. CERTIFICATE OPTIONS

- a) To apply for the **Certificates of Eligibility (CE)** in this endorsement:

You must hold an instructional certificate as explained in 2 above;

Complete six semester hour credits in special education taken from the topics listed in d) below; and

Submit the following:

- **Completed application for certification or on-line application** - (You can apply on line at https://www6.state.nj.us/DOE_TCIS_ONLINEED/login.jsp) or submit a paper application that is available through the county office of education or from the Office of Licensure and Credentials.)
- **Application Fee: \$150.00** - (Note that fees must be in the form of a certified check or money order payable to “Commissioner of Education” or through a credit card if you apply online.)

- **Official college/university transcripts** - *(Submitted by the college directly to the Office of Licensure and Credentials or by the applicant in a sealed envelope.)*

b) To apply for the **Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing (CEAS)** in this endorsement:

You must hold an instructional certificate as explained in 2 above;

Complete an appropriate special education teacher preparation program (described as follows):

- A New Jersey program, graduate or undergraduate, approved by the state department of education for the preparation of special education teachers as identified in N.J.A.C. 6A:9-10;
- A special education college preparation program included in the interstate certification reciprocity system of NASDTEC;
- An out-of-State special education teacher education program approved by NCATE; or
- An out-of-State special education teacher preparation program approved by the state department of education in which the program is located; and

Submit the following:

- **Completed application for certification or on-line application** - *(You can apply on line at https://www6.state.nj.us/DOE_TCIS_ONLINEED/login.jsp) or submit a paper application that is available through the county office of education or from the Office of Licensure and Credentials.)*
- **Application Fee: \$150.00** - *(Note that fees must be in the form of a certified check or money order payable to “Commissioner of Education” or through a credit card if you apply online.)*
- **Official college/university transcripts** - *(Submitted by the college directly to the Office of Licensure and Credentials or by the applicant in a sealed envelope.)*

c) To apply for the **Standard Certificate** in this endorsement:

You must hold a standard instructional certificate as explained in 2 above;

Complete a state-approved college special education program that includes the special education pedagogy required for this endorsement (as described in d) below); and

Submit the following:

- **Completed application for certification or on-line application** - *(You can apply on line at https://www6.state.nj.us/DOE_TCIS_ONLINEED/login.jsp) or*

submit a paper application that is available through the county office of education or from the Office of Licensure and Credentials.)

- **Application Fee: \$150.00** - *(Note that fees must be in the form of a certified check or money order payable to “Commissioner of Education” or through a credit card if you apply online.)*
- **Official college/university transcripts** - *(Submitted by the college directly to the Office of Licensure and Credentials or by the applicant in a sealed envelope.)*

d) Notations

Special education pedagogy (21-27 credits) required for this endorsement:

- Philosophical, historical and legal issues in the education of students who are blind/visually impaired;
- Anatomy, physiology and characteristics of students who are blind/visually impaired;
- Standardized and functional assessment of students who are blind/visually impaired;
- Strategies and materials for developing literacy and numeracy skills in students who are blind or visually impaired including Braille and Nemeth codes;
- Curriculum planning, learning environments, modifications and materials for students who are blind/visually impaired;
- Inclusive education practices, positive behavioral supports, communication and collaborative partnerships;
- Assistive technology and augmentative communication systems for students who are blind or visually impaired;
- Orientation and mobility concepts and techniques; and
- Transition planning, program services and agencies available for students who are blind/visually impaired.